RACE SUICIDE CRY BELIED BY COLLEGE STATISTICS

Better Children, Well Educated and Impressed With High Ideals, Considered More Valuable to Society Than Mere Numbers--- Weddings Come Later in Life Because of Economic Reasons, but Both Men and Women Graduates Raise Fair Sized Families

ONCE more American college graduates are entering the lists to defend themselves against the oft reiterated but perennially fresh charges of race suicide in their ranks. Representatives of several of the largest and most famous of the Eastern colleges, both men's and women's institutions, are producing statistics of marriage and birth rates among their graduates in the endeavor to refute the recent statement attributed to Maurice Ricker of the United States Public Health Service that race suicide is increasing among college graduates.

This statement follows close upon the declaration uttered not long since by a Massachusetts sociologist that the whole upper stratum of society is dying out through race suicide; that graduates of women's colleges produce on the average less than one-third enough children to resupply their part of the population, and that professional and business classes in general produce far less than the requisite three children per child bearing woman necessary to maintain their numbers without increase.

College Women Give Figures To Refute the Assertion

In the face of such serious charges it is not surprising that college graduates in general and women graduates in particular—for they are more frequently called upon to defend themselves in such cases—seek to prove in rebuttal that the higher education of the individual and the continuance of the race are not incompatible. They are producing figures to prove that the birth rate in the college and professional groups, while small in comparison with the high rate of the general population, is not by any means alarmingly small, and that, furthermore, numbers alone are not the only consideration in race continuance. Standards of quality—better health, lower mortality, higher grade of intelligence—are of equal importance, since race development and progress are fully as desirable as race continuance.

Frederick L. Allen, secretary of the Harvard University Corporation, gives statistics for the ten classes at Harvard from 1881 to 1890 which may be considered as fairly complete. The average number of men per class was 248, of whom 183 married and had 372 children. This was an average of 2.06 children per married graduate, or 1.55 children per capita for the whole class. Yale figures for classes graduated during the same period of time are found to be similar. These two universities are typical of the Eastern institutions, and it is probable that a survey of other men's colleges for the same period would yield approximately the same results.

It is interesting also to compare with these figures statistics compiled for the first ten classes graduated from Smith, which is the largest of the women's colleges. In these ten classes, from 1879 to 1888, there were 370 graduates, of whom 158 had married up to 1903, the date to which the figures were tabulated. These 158 had in the year 1903 a total of 315 children, almost exactly two children to each married graduate.

Smith College Statistics Include The Average Small Classes, Too

Other Smith figures compiled by the *Alumnae Quarterly* for the classes from 1879 to 1914 inclusive, covering 5,962 alumnæ, show that the average of children for each marriage was 1.34. It is pointed out that although this percentage may seem small it is based upon an average which includes the very small classes of the earlier years of the college, which have the most complete figures available, as well as the later classes, which are much larger, which have many members still unmarried and for which statistical data are very incomplete.

In connection with these official Smith figures some unofficial figures roughly compiled from class records at alumnæ reunions this last June may be of interest as showing present tendencies. It is the opinion among many representatives of the women's colleges that many more college women marry now than in the early days of college trained women, when a sharp line of demarcation was drawn between marriage and a career, and college was distinctly a preparation for the latter.

These informal but fairly accurate Smith figures would seem to bear out this conclusion. The class of 1901, with approximately 236 living graduates, has 194 husbands and 338 children. This means that about 82 per cent. of the class is married and that there is an average of about 1.07 child per marriage. It may be assumed that this class, twenty years out of college, has a marriage and birth record which is fairly complete and will not change to any great extent.

Compare with these 1901 figures those for the class of 1911, ten years out of college. This class has approximately 345 living graduates, of whom 299 are married, about 86 per cent. of the class. These 299 married graduates have 431 children, an average of about 1.4 per marriage. In other words, ten years after graduation this class has a higher percentage of marriages than the class of 1901 twenty years after graduation, and if its birth rate continues during the next ten years in the same proportions as during the last ten it will have about twice as many children per marriage as the class of 1901.

The class of 1916, five years out of college, has 118 married graduates from a total of 324, a little over a third of the class, and these married graduates, with their eighty-three children, have approximately 0.7 of a child each. The class of 1915, figures for which happen to be available, has six years after graduation about .495 of its members married, who boast .8 of a child apiece.

Although these class figures do not pretend to be official statistics, they are sufficiently accurate to show tendencies, and it will be observed that there is a certain law of averages at work. Taken at their face value they would seem to indicate that more college women of the younger generations are marrying than did their elders and that they are not failing seriously in doing their duty by the race. Indeed, some figures taken at random from the alumnæ publication of one of the large women's colleges may well indicate that the birth rate among college women is on the increase.

For the period covering approximately the year ending with June, 1921, there have been about twenty-five births recorded for a class twelve years out of college. Three of these twenty-five babies were the fifth in their families, two of them the fourth and seven of them the third, the others being second and first children. In this same record two cases of twins were cited, but not among the fourth and fifth children.

Wellesley College has no official figures available, but President Ellen Pendleton says that it is her impression that among Wellesley graduates the number of marriages and the number of children per marriage is increasing, rather than decreasing, as time goes on.

Marriages and Births Increase Among Wellesley's Alumnae

"Some twenty or more years ago," said Miss Pendleton, "the Association of Collegiate Alumnæ gathered quite elaborate statistics comparing the health, the number of marriages and number of children per marriage of college women, with similar statistics of their sisters who did not go to college or their cousins nearest their ages. These statistics showed that there was a very slight difference between the two classes, but such difference as there was was in favor of the college bred woman, and, as I have said, while we have no recent figures, my impression is that there are more marriages and more children per marriage in the latter years.

"No one denies that college women marry later in life than non-college women, and consequently any statistics that are made up on the basis of women not more than five years out of college would give an entirely wrong impression. I suspect that the same thing would be true of college men."

A graduate of the Engineering School of Columbia University who married a little over a year ago told the story of his life in business since schooldays that may be considered typical of many of his fellows. Said he:

"I was 19 when I entered the university and my stay in Columbia amounted to six years. You see, besides the scientific studies I had other branches to pursue, for I was after an all around education. At 22, three years before I left college, I met the woman whom I wanted to marry. The choice was mutual, but we were both students, both poor in this world's goods; in fact, both were dependent on his and her exertions.

"I couldn't think of marrying after receiving my degree, for the first job I got wasn't in my line at all. There seemed to be nothing in my line. So I took a place in a broker's office at $15 a week. Meanwhile my affianced wife got a place as a stenographer at about the same money. We saw each other as often as we could, but marriage looked 'way off in the future. Like 'Toodles,' I had to wait for 'the dearest girl in the world.'

"I was in my thirtieth year when finally I broke into my profession. What as, do you think? Timekeeper at $25 per. But it was a start, and at 32 I was earning $2,500 a year, and we didn't put off the wedding longer.

"Now we're comfortable. We have just welcomed our third child, a boy, and it looks to me as if I would be able to bring up the children, keep a comfortable home and give them an education. A wait of ten years in our case seemed a hardship, but the results have proved that it was not so."

The chances nowadays for a good engineer or chemist out of a professional school of a college are not brilliant. Most of the graduates have to be content with small beginnings, and in the case of the chemist, he has to take what he can get in a factory, where for a time he's considered more of an ornament than an asset. But if he has ability, courage and patience the door of opportunity is pretty sure to open to him.

Economic Situation the Cause For Many Late College Weddings

It is the economic situation really that demands late marriages among college men and women, as among the young people of every class. The question of degree, of course, enters into the need of all of these.

With the college man and woman certain niceties of environment, what some economists would call luxuries, have become by very habit ingrained in college life necessities. They wisely wait until these can be provided before embarking on that troubled sea of matrimony where bread doesn't float to hand on the waves.

Columbia's statistical records are not preserved, especially for the years from 1880 to 1910. The main reason for this is found in the physical changes the university has made. In her various movings these records have been lost sight of. In the five years from 1911 to 1916, of 1,225 graduates 395 are married, but the majority of these marriages are recent, taking place within the ten year period. Perhaps it is safe to say that this lapse of time between graduation and marriage is pretty general among the alumni of Columbia University.

Along the lines of the conclusion reached by the Association of Collegiate Alumnæ that any difference between the college women and their non-college sisters as regards marriage and birth figures was in favor of the college woman, is the opinion of a member of the faculty of another large Eastern women's college, who has recently made some comparisons. He has gone back to the preparatory schools most prominently represented at his college and compared the marriage and birth figures of graduates of these schools who came to college with those who did not, and he has found that the birth rate among the college women is considerably higher than that among the non-college graduates of the same schools, in spite of the fact that in many cases the marriages in the college group were made much later.

Barnard, among the youngest of the women's colleges, has records going back only twenty-five years. These records show an average of one child per marriage among the graduates. Here again, however, it is hardly fair to draw hasty conclusions, since tables on families of the more recent graduates cannot be quoted. The *Barnard Alumnæ Register* shows that of a total of 2,095 graduates from 1893 to 1919 inclusive, 756 have married, or 36.1 per cent. These married graduates have 871 children, or 1.2 child per capita.

One of the Barnard officials, when interviewed, said:

Half of Vassar's Graduates Are Married, Majority Are Mothers

"College girls, in common with most enlightened and educated persons, do not have the large families that the immigrant has, for instance. But I should judge from general observation that college women are more likely to marry to-day than when women's colleges first came into being. In the early days, when the doors of higher education were first opened to women they entered college because they wanted to devote themselves entirely to study and nothing else. Now almost every type of girl goes in for higher education, and naturally many of them marry, some before they complete their college course."

Vassar, which graduated its first class in 1866, has 5,377 living graduates, of whom 2,702 are married, or were in March, 1921, when the figures were compiled. Questionnaires were sent out at this time to all graduates and the responses amounted to 81 per cent. According to these responses there are 3,779 children to the 2,702 married graduates, approximately 1.4 children to a marriage—about the same as the Smith figures.

During its first decade Vassar graduated 324 women, of whom 179 married and had 365 children. In the second decade 378 were graduated, 208 married and there were 366 children. For the decade ending in 1897 there were 312 married graduates out of a total of 604, and 548 children. For the decade ending in 1907 there were 1,427 graduates, 819 of whom married and had 1,416 children. Of the 2,320 graduates in the decade ending in 1917 1,105 married and had 1,071 children. It will be seen from these figures that there is one child and a fraction to each marriage.

So much for figures. It is quite apparent that the birth rate among the graduates of our colleges is not increasing alarmingly. Neither does the race of the educated seem to be dying out. They are holding their own as regards numbers fairly well. But it is not numbers alone that must be considered in discussing this question of race progress and development. Man must not merely increase and multiply; he must continually evolve toward a higher order of development. And it is in this higher development that the college graduates and their children apparently have most of the odds in their favor.

Take the matter of health, for example. The *Statistical Bulletin* of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company quotes a recently completed study on mortality rates among college women. Death rates among graduates of women's colleges in the United States are exceedingly low. Among 15,561 women cited the death rate between the ages of 20 and 64 is only 3.24 per 1,000. Nearly one-half of the total observations were centred on the ages between 25 and 34 years, where the death rate was 2.77 per 1,000. Among women in the general population of the United States registration area the death rate at this age period was more than twice as high—6.10 per 1,000.

These favorable figures seem to be due to several important causes. First, there is the selective effect of the secondary and collegiate educational process. Those physically unfit to pursue studies usually drop from the rolls. College women also come from a superior home environment; the presumption is that for all of them economic and domestic circumstances have been such as to conduce to better health than the average. These women during their lives in a college environment also benefit from periodical medical examination and from prescribed physical exercise much more than women in the general population. After graduation many of them enter professional pursuits, where the risk of death is at a minimum. Less than one-half of them marry and are not, therefore, exposed to the grave risks of child bearing. Not less important is the favorable effect of the whole of college education on the right conduct of life.

The favorable death rate of graduates of women's colleges clearly indicate that the prevailing mortality among women in the general population is far in excess of what it should be. An excess of nearly 100 per cent. in the death rate of women in general over the rate for this special group is indicative of numerous factors of life wastage which could be controlled by intelligent effort.

In any discussion of the birth rate among college graduates it must be considered that they fall into a group of the population which, more than any other, aims to uphold high living standards. Educational and cultural ideals are emphasized, and a small number of children bred in the home environment created by these ideals and influenced daily to live up to the ideals inculcated in them are looked upon as a greater contribution to the State and the race than a larger number raised under less favorable home conditions.

It must be remembered also that this college group must bear the brunt of a large amount of economic pressure. College graduates are for the most part salaried and professional people earning incomes not by any means overwhelming in size. Their living standards are high, and their ideals stimulate them to keep up their standards, yet their incomes are seldom sufficient to permit them to do so. This, of course, tends to reduce the average size of families in this group.

Late Marriages the Rule Among College Graduates

The late marriages which are characteristic of the college graduate man or woman are not a drawback, but rather an advantage. Although there may be fewer children in the families, they are usually of a higher order of intelligence and better equipped for life than children of parents married at an earlier age.

William Hard in his "Women of To-morrow" writes that Havelock Ellis made a study of British men of genius and discovered that the average age of the fathers of great men when they were born was 37, while the average age of the mothers was 31.

Mr. Hard also quotes a study made by R. S. Holway of the department of education at Stanford University on "Age of Parents: Its Effects Upon Children." The conclusions were: In most physical qualities the children of mature parents tend to come out best. In mental ability the children of young parents show best at an early age, but rapidly lose their precocity. The elder children who show best tend to be the children of mature and older parents. The children of elderly mothers show a tendency to superiority throughout.

After hearing these facts and figures the situation seems to be not so alarming after all. The college graduate at least reproduces himself or herself, and the tendency is toward a higher birth rate rather than a lower one. Among college women there is quite apparently a higher birth rate than twenty or thirty years ago. More girls go to college in the present day than ever before. It has become a matter of course in families where any children go to college to send the girls as well as the boys. It thus naturally follows that among the increased number of women attending our colleges there is a larger and larger number who do not set a career against marriage as in the earlier days and who marry much sooner after leaving college than in the case of the older women graduates.

It is probable that as time goes on there will be a steadily increasing rate of marriages and births among the college group, for the tendency seems to be in that direction according to the available figures.

The college men and women also are the leaders in a movement which is slowly percolating throughout the general population to apply standards of quality rather than standards of quantity in the matter of race continuance. The greatest good of the race depends upon its constant evolution to a higher standard of civilization, and this cannot be accomplished by mere numbers of population, but by a population educated and enlightened and always progressing onward.

STATISTICS OF COLLEGE MARRIAGES.

Name of College	Years of Classes	Number of Graduates	Number Wed	Number of Children
Harvard	1881-1890	248*	183	372
Smith	1901	236	194	338
Smith	1911	345	299	431
Smith	1916	324**	118	83
Barnard	1893-1919	....	756	871
Vassar	1866-1921	5,377	2,702	3,779
Columbia	1911-1916	1,225	395	....

*Average. **One-third of class.

What Folks Read Nowadays

LEADING the reports of what is demanded by the readers of the public libraries of the country is the two volume work "The Outline of History," by H. G. Wells. These reports are received by the American Library Association and are furnished weekly by public libraries in New York and the New England States, South Atlantic States, North Central States and South Central States, Western States.

This book, entertaining as it is, still must be classed as serious reading. Next in number of calls at the libraries from which the reports are sent is "Margot Asquith, an Autobiography." This book owes its success to a perfectly natural liking for gossip about people more or less known through the newspapers. It had also a very clever kind of advertising besides the advantage of a serial publication.

Frederick O'Brien's two books, "White Shadows in the South Seas" and "Mystic Isles of the South Seas," rank third in the lists. Robert Lansing's "The Peace Negotiations" and "The Americanization of Edward Bok," by himself, are reported as being in frequent demand.

So much for the more serious readers and their choice for the summer, which is seen to be of good but not heavy books, suitable to the season. The novels asked for are still those which became popular in the spring or earlier. "Main Street" leads, and "The Age of Innocence" is about equally in demand.

Here is the list of books given out at the New York Public Library (Information Desk) for which it is necessary to put in an order if you want to take out one of them. Sometimes it is necessary to wait a month before your wish to read one of the favorites can be gratified at this source: "Main Street," "The Mysterious Rider," "The Brimming Cup," "The Sisters in Law," "Moon Calf" and "Miss Lulu Bett."

When asked how the demand for these new books compared with the old favorites of Dickens, Thackeray, Stevenson, Twain and others the attendant replied that the library was constantly lending out books by these authors, but not in such numbers that it was necessary to put in a request beforehand. But she added:

"There isn't a day in the year that we do not give out books by Dickens, the favorites being 'David Copperfield' and 'A Tale of Two Cities.' 'Lorna Doone' and 'Treasure Island' are always in demand. It is pretty difficult to say whether the new books mentioned or the old and celebrated novels are most in demand. It is probable that so far as use is concerned they run each other pretty close."

Hobbies That Please Men of Affairs

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contemporaneously with their production, a task never to be finished and full of unlimited pleasure to its follower.

EDWARD T. NEWELL, beginning as a wise numismatist, interested in all sorts of coins, has narrowed his hobby within more reasonable limits; he now devotes himself to acquiring Greek and Roman coins.

SAMUEL T. PETERS, for many years recognized authority on the coal production of this country, gives as much of his time as can be spared from anthracite and bituminous specimens to Chinese pottery and porcelains. A valuable and rare exhibition of these is housed in his home at Islip, Long Island.

SEVERAL of the men whose names and hobbies have been specifically mentioned are members of the flourishing Hobby Club of New York. Other members are Dr. Bashford Dean, Darwin P. Kingsley, William M. Schnitzer, John C. Tomlinson, David Wagstaff, Adrian H. Larkin, John Quinn, William F. Havemeyer, Winston S. Hagen, Prof. E. R. A. Seligman, David Eugene Smith, R. T. H. Halsey, Percy Pyne 2d, William B. Osgood Field, P. Ingraham, Herbert L. Pratt, Henry H. Harper of Boston and William K. Bixby of St. Louis.

The Hobby Club organized in 1911 and applicants for membership are required to show that they are in good faith collectors of art works, books, coins, &c., in a persistent and not incidental way and along homogeneous lines.

As the club is a dinner club, celibate members naturally do their entertaining at clubhouses, but even here the host has his audience primed to listen to what of eloquence he can display about his treasures and of these he fetches some to be handed around for examination while he is discoursing on their rarity and the fortunate circumstances by which he came into possession. The privilege of having before their eyes the very object he is talking of is appreciated. It cannot help but spread some very valuable information.

The marks which denote a true hobbyist have come to be well known by club members and a simulation of enthusiasm they can easily puncture. These marks consist in the devotion to making a collection of rare and beautiful or unusual things, valuable from any standpoint, historical, scientific, artistic or literary. The things must be collected by the member himself—not acquired ready made, so to speak—so that member cannot help becoming an expert in his line. He is, therefore, a better educated man than he might otherwise be, and almost as certainly a delightful companion. There are, of course, persons who find the hobbyist a bore, but these persons are not members of the Hobby Club.

To succeed with a hobby, love, patience and devotion are essential; you can't be a member in good standing of the Hobby Club without these—while possessed of them in a high degree growing old is relieved of its worst terrors.

If love (the passion) is quenched, if family affection is diluted to a thing like duty, if nightingale is no more melodious in your ears than chanticleer, you may still go on living and getting something out of life provided you have a hobby.

Therefore, as has been already said, get a hobby, elder brother, and ride it for your life.